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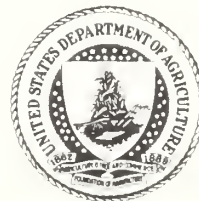
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# SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



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## Services Available Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture

This directory lists services and programs of the United States Department of Agriculture. It explains what these services and programs do and where and how to obtain them.

Personnel of the Department help people learn about and use these Federal programs to improve economic conditions and raise their living standards. Although headquartered in Washington, D.C., USDA agencies operate program offices in counties throughout the United States.

Eligibility for participation in all programs administered by the Department of Agriculture is established by law without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or religion. If you feel you have been denied the benefits of any USDA program on any of these grounds, write directly to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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PURPOSE

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To provide more efficient, direct, and appropriate service benefits to the public, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts a number of programs in cooperation with State and local governments. Some cooperative programs involve grants. Others provide only for an exchange of pertinent information. Under such agreements--regulatory, consumer protection, food, and marketing services and agricultural information functions--are frequently performed by State personnel operating under Federal technical supervision. Where cooperative working arrangements are not involved, coordination and review mechanisms have been developed to cover situations in which USDA activities supplement, parallel, or directly affect those performed by State and local governments. State and local governmental units vary widely in legal authorities, capabilities, financing and organizational structure. Therefore, the agreements and arrangements made with USDA frequently must be tailored to meet special situations.

HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in Governmental and Public Affairs provides current information on programs involving Federal-State-local efforts. State and local officials and private citizens can use this office to bring matters of intergovernmental concern to USDA officials familiar with USDA field programs. In cooperation with State legislators and State officials, drafts of model State legislation and compacts are prepared covering activities in which USDA has a national interest, such as resources and conservation, rural housing and development, agricultural regulation, and consumer protection.

WHO MAY APPLY

State and local officials, organizations of State and local officials, and the general public.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Emergency Assistance after Natural Disasters

PURPOSE

When disaster occurs, it is vital to inform victims of available assistance and to help them get whatever aid they are entitled to.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) coordinates Federal response following a disaster or emergency declared so by the President. USDA agencies work closely with FDAA during such times. The Department also provides assistance following natural disasters which are not severe enough to require a Presidential declaration but which affect agriculture.

In the case of severe drought, flooding, or other natural disaster conditions, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service may:

- Cost-share feed to farmers and ranchers for eligible livestock.
- Donate grain to Interior Department and State agencies for wildlife.
- Cost-share with farmers and ranchers to solve new conservation problems.
- Make payments to wheat, feed grain, upland cotton and rice growers when planting is prevented or yields are abnormally low.
- Permit emergency harvesting on set-aside or diverted acreage following a loss of feed supply due to a natural disaster.
- Donate feed grain, along with Interior, to Indian tribes for livestock feeding under chronic disaster conditions.

The Farmers Home Administration may provide emergency loans to help farmers maintain or re-establish normal operations. In major rural fires, the Forest Service can either make people and supplies available or can provide technical know-how on firefighting. When there are serious outbreaks of animal or crop disease or crop pests, specialists in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service can help plan control measures. Emergency technical and financial help is available from the Soil Conservation Service to reclaim flood damaged land and unblock stream channels if they pose a pollution hazard or endanger life and property. This help extends to restoring conservation measures to get land back in use.

## WHO MAY APPLY

Governors, State welfare agencies, local governing bodies, farmers, eligible rural residents.

## WHERE TO APPLY

The office of the Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs coordinates natural disaster assistance and can provide information on USDA programs. Applications for assistance should be made to Food and Nutrition Service, Farmers Home Administration,



Science and Education Administration, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, or other appropriate USDA agencies, either at their local offices or at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Rural Electric and Telephone Loans

### PURPOSE

To finance electric service and new or improved telephone service in rural areas. Electric loans finance construction, operation of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities to provide initial and continued electric service to people in rural areas. Telephone loans finance telephone facilities, including lines and modern exchanges. The goal of this loan program is to provide adequate and reliable electric and telephone service to people in rural areas.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) makes loans and guarantees loans made by others to initiate, expand, or improve electric or telephone service to rural areas. REA loans bear interest at either a standard rate of 5 percent or a special rate of 2 percent interest in accordance with criteria set forth in the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. REA also makes loans in conjunction with other lenders and may guarantee the repayment of loans from non-REA sources.

Telephone loans are also made by the Rural Telephone Bank, which uses the facilities and services of REA. Telephone Bank loans are being made for the same purposes as loans made by REA, but they bear interest at a rate consistent with the Bank's cost of money.

All REA and Rural Telephone Bank loans are self-liquidating.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Companies, cooperatives, and certain public authorities that qualify under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended.

### WHERE TO APPLY

You may write to the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Soil and Water Conservation

### PURPOSE

To help individuals, groups, and units of government to conserve and improve natural resources. The help comes through conservation districts.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Soil Conservation Service provides the technical services of professional conservationists to help plan and apply soil and water conservation measures.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Owners and operators of private lands (farmers, ranchers, or land users in a community) and units of State, county, and local governments.

### WHERE TO APPLY

State and local Soil Conservation Service offices.

### Great Plains Conservation Program

### PURPOSE

To conserve and develop the Great Plains soil and water resources.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Cost-share funds on a contractual basis and technical assistance are available to farmers, ranchers, and others in planning and installing conservation practices in accordance with a conservation plan for their land. Contracts between the applicant and the Soil Conservation Service are for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years. Federal cost shares range from 30 percent to 80 percent for the most urgently needed conservation practices.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Farmers and ranchers in 10 Great Plains States, (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas).

### WHERE TO APPLY

Local Soil Conservation Service Offices serving the county in which the farm or ranch is located.

## Agricultural Conservation Program

### PURPOSE

To cost-share with eligible producers the cost of pollution abatement and other soil, water, and forestry practices of long-term community and public benefit.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Farmers, ranchers, and private nonindustrial forest landowners may apply for cost-sharing assistance in carrying out approved practices by filing a request with the county ASC committee before work is begun. Technicians from the Soil Conservation Service, the Forest Service, or the State forestry agency are available to assist the producer or contractor in planning and performing the work of installing conservation measures using funds authorized by Congress and allocated to ASC committees. The Government pays up to 90 percent of the cost of a much needed conservation practice.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Any farmer, rancher, or private nonindustrial forest landowner, (whether owner, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper) who bears part of the cost of an approved practice.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices, usually located in the county seat.

### Cooperative Law Enforcement

### PURPOSE

To cooperate with State or local units of government in strengthening law enforcement on National Forest System lands.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Assistance may be used to carry out State and local law enforcement activities on National Forest lands that are covered in cooperative agreements. These activities include patrol, investigation, and traffic law enforcement. Purchase or rental of specialized equipment needed to cope with these activities may be included in the agreement. Service must be above that normally provided by cooperative agencies.

### WHO MAY APPLY

State or local law enforcement agencies that have authority to enforce State and local laws on lands within the National Forests.

## WHERE TO APPLY

You may contact any Forest Service Regional, or National Forest Supervisor, or the staff of a Ranger District Office, or write to the Staff Assistant for Law Enforcement, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

### Assistance to States for Tree Planting and Reforestation

## PURPOSE

To provide assistance to States in their forestation and tree improvement projects that will help assure an adequate supply of timber.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

USDA can assist States in undertaking tree planting, other forestation and tree improvement programs. Reforestation work is carried out to restore low-yielding or nonproductive forest lands to fuller production. New or expanded tree improvement projects are funded under this program in cost-sharing arrangements. The landowners (private and non-Federal agencies) are the ultimate beneficiaries of the program efforts.

## WHO MAY APPLY

State forestry agencies.

## WHERE TO APPLY

You may contact a Regional Forester or Area Director of the U.S. Forest Service, or write to the Cooperative Forestry Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

### Cooperative Forest Fire Control

## PURPOSE

To provide permanent protection of non-Federal timberland, potential timberland and certain nonforested watershed lands to the extent needed to hold fire damage below the level at which it would seriously interfere with expected yields of timber products and other public benefits from these lands.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

Non-Federal lands are provided fire protection by State forestry agencies and their cooperators. The Federal role is one of providing technical support and financial assistance as incentive to the States in their efforts. Acquisition and use of Federal excess property by State foresters for fire control use is also authorized. A State should receive not more than 50 percent of its current estimated cost of adequate fire protection. The formula used in determining allotments has the concurrence of the Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. All non-Federal landowners are eligible for fire protection of their forest and watershed lands.

## WHO MAY APPLY

State forestry agencies with fire control responsibilities for non-Federal forest and watershed lands.

## WHERE TO APPLY

You may contact a Regional Forester or an Area Director of the U.S. Forest Service, or write Cooperative Fire Protection Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

## Rural Forestry Assistance

### PURPOSE

To assist in increasing timber inventories, improving and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat and providing other forest resources on non-Federal forest lands.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

To provide technical, financial and related assistance to State Foresters or equivalent state officials to develop genetically improved tree seeds; procure, produce and distribute tree seeds and trees to establish forest, windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots and other plantings; plant tree seeds and seedlings to reforest non-Federal lands suitable for the production of timber and other benefits associated with growing trees; plan, organize and implement measures on non-Federal forest land, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural practices designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of trees and other vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat and water yield; protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forest lands and the quality, quantity and timing of water yields and to provide technical information, advice, and related assistance on harvesting, processing and marketing timber, conversion of wood to energy and management planning and treatment of forest land.

## WHO MAY APPLY

Private forest landowners and managers, forest operators, wood processors public agencies and individuals.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Local Forest Service Offices or Chief, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

#### Urban Forestry Assistance

#### PURPOSE

To encourage States to plan and implement urban forestry programs.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

By providing financial, technical and related assistance to plant, protect, maintain and utilize wood from trees, in open spaces, green belts, roadside screens, parks, woodlands, curb areas and residential developments in urban areas.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

State Foresters, or equivalent State officials.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Local Forest Service offices or Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C., 20013.

#### Cooperative Forest Insect and Disease Management

#### PURPOSE

To reduce damage caused by insects and diseases on forest lands to levels commensurate with forest resource and other environmental values.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

USDA helps by providing technical assistance in prevention, detection, evaluation, and suppression of forest insect and disease outbreaks on State and private lands. (Program also has similar responsibilities on all Federal lands). Legislation by States providing for control of forest insects and disease on State and private forest lands is a requisite to permit full Federal-State-private cooperation under provisions of the Federal Forest Pest Control Act. All projects must meet specific Federal rules as well as be biologically feasible, environmentally acceptable and economically efficient.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

State forestry or other State agency having responsibility for forest insect and disease control.



## WHERE TO APPLY

You may contact either a Regional Forester or an Area Director of the U.S. Forest Service, or write to the Forest Insect and Disease Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

### Cooperative Production and Distribution of Forest Tree Planting Stock

#### PURPOSE

To stimulate forestation on non-Federal lands by helping the States furnish tree seed and planting stock for forest and windbarrier plantings.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

USDA helps by assisting States in producing, purchasing, and distributing planting stock or seed for forest, windbarrier or watershed plantings. The States are thus able to provide planting stock at moderate prices.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

State forestry agencies and, in a few States, the Extension forester or school of forestry.

## WHERE TO APPLY

You may contact either a Regional Forester or an Area Director of the U.S. Forest Service, or Cooperative Extension Service, Forestry Staff, or write to the Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

### General Forestry Assistance

#### PURPOSE

To stimulate interest in better forestry among owners not reached through other cooperative forestry programs.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

USDA provides highly specialized forestry assistance to and through State forestry agencies to woodland owners, associations, and the wood industry in the following areas: (1) land-use planning, (2) dissemination of research findings, (3) forest products utilization, (4) forest management, (5) forest hydrology management (6) organization, (7) wild and scenic river studies, and (8) special studies. General Forestry Assistance funds are used primarily to pay Forest Service specialists. Funds for cost-sharing projects are earmarked for those activities or services not provided by other cooperative programs.

## WHO MAY APPLY

State forestry agencies.

## WHERE TO APPLY

You may contact a Regional Forester or an Area Director of the U.S. Forest Service or write to Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

### Young Adult Conservation Corps Grants to States

## PURPOSE

The Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) program provides year-round jobs for unemployed and out-of-school men and women between the ages of 16 and 23. They work on conservation jobs in national forests, national parks, fish hatcheries, wildlife refuges, and other public lands. The program is administered jointly by the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and the Interior. The YACC has both residential camps and nonresidential work projects. Enrollees may participate in the program for a maximum of 12 months.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

Thirty percent of all the funds appropriated to carry out the YACC program are available for grants to the States each year. Grant funds are allocated based on the youth population of a State. State YACC programs consist of both residential and nonresidential projects. Financial assistance is available for employment and work to be performed on projects affecting both Federal and non-Federal public lands and water, or projects limited to non-Federal public lands and waters. YACC grants do not require matching funds.

## WHO MAY APPLY

All States and territories are eligible.

## WHERE TO APPLY

You may apply to a Regional Forester or an Area Director, of the U.S. Forest Service; a State Forester or Director of Department of Natural Resources or write to Staff Director, Human Resources Programs, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

### Rural Community Fire Protection

## PURPOSE

To protect lives and property by providing technical, financial and other assistance to State foresters who, in turn, provide assistance in training, organizing, and equipping rural firefighting forces.



## HOW USDA CAN HELP

Funds may be used on a project basis to organize and plan fire protection, to train firefighters in wildland, structural fire suppression, and fire prevention activities. Activities which are normal to rural fire organizations in the States are included in projects. Equipment obtained is to be used for firefighting during the life of the equipment. Also, in support of the program, excess military property is available on request to the State forester. Eligibility is limited to rural communities with populations under 10,000 which are unprotected or poorly protected.

## WHO MAY APPLY

State forestry agencies that negotiate agreements with rural communities.

## WHERE TO APPLY

State foresters.

### Forestry Incentive Program

## PURPOSE

To share the costs of installing forestry practices with private forest landowners having eligible lands in certain designated counties. The primary purpose of the program is to accelerate timber production, and, in addition, to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, improve erosion control, and realize other forest resource benefits.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

Private landowners may apply for cost-share assistance under this program. A request for assistance must be filed with the county ASC committee before work is begun. State forestry agency personnel are available to assist in planning and performing the work. Cost-sharing ranges up to 75 percent of the cost of the practice. Long-term agreements are available under this program. The Forest Service provides technical direction.

## WHO MAY APPLY

Any private landowner may apply, who is holding up to 1,000 acres of eligible forest land (up to 5,000 acres if approved by the Secretary of Agriculture) and who is not regularly engaged in manufacturing forest products or providing public utilities services. Lands must be capable of producing a minimum of 50 cubic feet of wood per acre per year to be eligible. Applicants must bear part of the cost of an approved practice.

## WHERE TO APPLY

Local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices, or State forestry offices, usually located in the county seat.

## Water Bank Program

### PURPOSE

The Water Bank Program helps: preserve, restore, and improve inland fresh water and adjacent areas in designated migratory waterfowl nesting and breeding areas. Preserve and improve wetlands. Conserve surface waters. Reduce runoff and soil, water, and wind erosion, as well as stream sedimentation. Contribute to flood control, better water quality, and improved subsurface moisture. Promote comprehensive water management planning.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP AND WHO MAY APPLY

Persons in selected areas having eligible wetlands may enter into agreements with farmer-elected Agricultural Conservation Program Committees and receive payments for carrying out the purposes of the program. Planning and technical services are provided by the Soil Conservation Service.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Local ASCS offices, usually located in the county seat.

### Agricultural Estimates and Forecasts

### PURPOSE

To help farmers and others associated with agriculture have reliable and objective estimates and other statistical information and forecasts about crop and livestock production, stocks, marketings, and prices paid and received by producers.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service's agricultural estimates and reports are published at scheduled times and are available to the public. Releases provide current data of agricultural activity in each State and nationally, and analysis and forecasts on commodities, farm income, and food prices. Farmers can get a free newsletter to help them make production and marketing decisions.

The Foreign Agricultural Service publishes estimates and other information on world production and trade in agricultural products.

## WHERE TO APPLY

State offices of the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, or Administrator, ESCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or Administrator, FAS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Grading Services

### PURPOSE

To provide producers, packers, processors, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, and consumers official certification of the quality of food and farm products, to aid in marketing or establishing the market value of products.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Three agencies of USDA, often in cooperation with State agencies, offer official grading or inspection for quality of food and farm products at producing or shipping points and at terminal markets. Grading is usually based on U.S. grade standards developed by USDA for these products. Commodities covered are: manufactured dairy products, poultry and eggs, meat, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables (Food Safety and Quality Service); grain and related commodities such as dry beans, peas and lentils (Federal Grain Inspection Service); and cotton, tobacco, naval stores, livestock, and wool (Agricultural Marketing Service). For most commodities, the grading service is provided for a fee to cover the cost of the service. Users of the service may contract for official grading during packing or processing, or request grading of specific lots of a product in warehouses, railcars, barges, or other locations. The official grading or inspection certificate is accepted as prima facie evidence in court. The official grade name or USDA grade shield may be used on wholesale lots of products that have been officially graded and, in appropriate instances, on the retail product.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Anyone with a financial interest in the products.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Depending on specific commodities, as listed by agencies above, to Food Safety and Quality Service, Federal Grain Inspection Service, or Agricultural Marketing Service--U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Federal-State Market News Services

### PURPOSE

To provide producers, wholesalers, retailers, and others engaged in marketing food and farm products up-to-date information on prices, supplies, and market conditions, to aid in equitable and efficient marketing.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Agricultural Marketing Service, in cooperation with State agencies, provides daily, weekly, or monthly reports on prices, supplies, and market conditions for most food and farm products. Market news reporters, usually Federal employees, are stationed at major terminal markets throughout the country. State-employed market news reporters cover major producing areas. Many offices provide round-the-clock information by automatic answering devices. Reports may also be obtained by mail or through newspapers, radio, and television. Market news reports provide unbiased data on prices, supplies, movement, and condition of the market for livestock and meat; poultry and eggs; dairy products; fresh fruits, vegetables, and ornamental crops; grain and related products; cotton; and tobacco and naval stores.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Any producer, wholesaler, retailer, or other organization or individual with an interest in marketing.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Cotton, Dairy, Fruit and Vegetable, Tobacco, or Livestock, Poultry, Grain, and Seed Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or State Departments of Agriculture.

The Standardization or Inspection Division, Federal Grain Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, can also assist you in getting marketing information on grain.

### Meat and Poultry Inspection

#### PURPOSE

To protect consumers by maintaining a system of Federal-State inspection of meat and poultry, as well as meat and poultry products, for wholesomeness and accurate labeling.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Food Safety and Quality Service, under Federal inspection regulations, requires advance approval of facilities and equipment of all slaughtering and processing plants operating in interstate

commerce. Advance approval is also required for all packages and labeling of meat and poultry products. The program includes continuous inspection under established standards for sanitation and wholesomeness, beginning before animals or poultry are slaughtered and continuing through each step of processing. It also includes surveillance to guard against illegal residues of chemicals from any source. All imported meat and poultry is inspected to make sure that these imports are comparable in quality to domestic production. Regulations require that States must maintain inspection systems for meat and poultry products sold within their own boundaries. If these systems are not equal to Federal inspection, USDA must assume responsibility for State inspection.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Processors interested in producing meat and poultry products with the intention of shipping in interstate commerce may apply for approval of facilities, equipment, and labeling.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Technical Services, Meat and Poultry Inspection, FSQS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

### Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)

#### PURPOSE

To prohibit unfair trading practices among buyers and sellers in the produce business.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Agricultural Marketing Service furnishes advice to growers, shippers, and buyers concerning produce marketing transactions, advising of rights and responsibilities under the PACA. Unfair trading practice complaints in the marketing of fruits and vegetables are handled by PACA specialists who try to bring parties together for informal settlements of disputes. Licenses can be suspended and revoked for violation of the Act.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Everyone involved in buying and selling fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce, or having a financial interest in such transaction, is eligible for advice or to file complaints under the Act. Everyone who trades interstate in fresh or frozen fruits or vegetables must apply for an annual license, except for growers marketing only their own crops and certain retailers and certain frozen food selling brokers.

## WHERE TO APPLY

Regulatory Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, telephone 447-2272; or branch offices located at 417 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, Calif. 90013, telephone; 798-3195; 610 South Canal Street, Chicago, Ill. 60607, telephone 353-6220; 26 Federal Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10007, telephone 264-1118; or 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, telephone 334-2624.

## Plant Variety Protection Act

### PURPOSE

To legally protect the ownership rights of breeders of plants that reproduce through seeds.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Agricultural Marketing Service examiners check for distinctiveness, uniformity, and stability to determine whether a new variety is, in fact, novel and entitled to protection against infringement. When entitled to protection, the originator is given a certificate which prohibits others from selling, exporting, or reproducing the variety of sale without authorization from the owner.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Anyone who develops or owns a new plant variety.

## WHERE TO APPLY

Plant Variety Protection Office, Livestock, Poultry, Grain, and Seed Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library (SEA), Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

## Agricultural Fair Practices Act

### PURPOSE

To protect farmer's rights to organize and to join cooperatives. The Act establishes standards of fair practices for handlers and processors who deal with farmers, and prohibits handlers from discriminating against farmers because they are members of a producer association.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Agricultural Marketing Service handles producer complaints filed under the Act. In most cases where it appears the complaint has merit, the administrator requests a field investigation by USDA's Office of Inspector General, Investigation Division. If the investigation reveals



sufficient evidence that any handler has engaged in a practice prohibited by this law, the Secretary of Agriculture may request the Attorney General to bring civil action in his behalf for injunction relief from such practices.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Agricultural producers who believe they have been discriminated against because of their membership in a cooperative or bargaining association may file complaints, which should state such details as the handler's name and address, when the violation occurred, and what the producer believes the handler has done that violates the law.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

#### Plant Protection from Pests and Diseases

#### PURPOSE

To assist States and growers in controlling or eradicating plant pests and diseases that cause serious losses.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service maintains working agreements with the various States that outline the basis for entering into cooperative programs to control or eradicate serious plant pests or diseases. When the need for a program has been determined, specific measures are established such as State and Federal quarantines, pesticide spray programs, or the release of sterile insects to reduce pest populations. Objectives may be agreed upon that limit the action to controlling the spread of pests and diseases that attempt complete eradication. APHIS shares responsibilities with the State for technical knowledge, equipment, personnel, and funds.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Plant producers and State governments.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Producers through State Plant Regulatory Officials; State governments to Deputy Administrator for Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs, APHIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

#### Protection from Animal Pests and Diseases

#### PURPOSE

To assist States and producers in controlling or eradicating animal pests and diseases that cause serious losses.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

When the need arises to conduct a program to control or eradicate an animal pest or disease, the States concerned request APHIS to cooperate with them in an organized campaign. Specific measures are established, such as State and Federal quarantines, vaccination, or destruction of diseased or exposed animals. Objectives may be agreed upon that limit the action to controlling the infection or that attempt complete eradication. APHIS shares with the States responsibilities for technical knowledge, equipment, personnel, and funds.

## WHO MAY APPLY

Livestock or poultry producers and State governments.

## WHERE TO APPLY

Producers may contact their State or Federal veterinarians. State governments may contact the Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Small Watershed Projects

### PURPOSE

To develop and carry out small watershed projects for flood prevention, watershed protection, agricultural water management, recreation, municipal and industrial water supply, and fish and wildlife development. These are small "community size" projects, limited by statute to not more than 250,000 acres, a little less than 400 square miles. Some range down to about 3,000 acres, or 4-1/2 square miles. In addition to flood prevention, small watershed projects offer excellent opportunity for developing recreation, water supply, and other facilities in the community.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Soil Conservation Service gives technical and financial aid to local organizations in planning and carrying out watershed projects. The Forest Service, working with the State Forestry agencies, helps plan and install forestry and related measures.

First, the local group contacts the nearest Soil Conservation Service office. Once an application has been approved by the State and the SCS State Conservationist, SCS helps the group prepare a watershed plan.

Forest Service provides accelerated technical assistance to landowners through State foresters. This includes utilization and marketing assistance, management planning and related resource advice assistance.



The Federal Government through SCS pays: (a) all construction costs for flood prevention; (b) engineering and other services allocated to flood prevention; agricultural water management, and public recreation or fish and wildlife development; (c) up to 50 percent of the construction cost for agricultural water management and public recreation or fish and wildlife development; (d) up to 50 percent of the engineering and other installation services required for basic facilities for public recreation or fish and wildlife development; and (e) up to 50 percent of land rights required for public recreation or fish and wildlife development. All other costs must be paid by the local organizations.

Organizations or public bodies may secure loans from the Farmers Home Administration to finance costs they must pay on watershed projects.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Any State or legally qualified organization, such as soil and water conservation districts; municipalities; counties; watershed, flood-control, conservancy, drainage, irrigation, or other special-purpose districts; and irrigation and reservoir companies, water users' association, or similar nonprofit organizations.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Local Soil Conservation Service offices.

### Transportation Services

#### PURPOSE

To bring about needed changes in freight services and rates for farm products, provide assistance in solving major transportation issues important to farmers.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Office of Transportation serves as a focal point for all USDA transportation matters. Transportation specialists work closely with farmers, shippers, farm organizations, and other Federal and State government agencies in negotiating with carriers. When necessary, AMS files complaints or petitions and testifies in formal proceedings before Federal and State agencies which regulate transportation.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Any group of farmers, shippers, farm organizations, and local or State agencies.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Office of Transportation, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Packers and Stockyards Program

### PURPOSE

To regulate business practices in the livestock, poultry and meat industries.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Packers and stockyards program specialists of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) work closely with producers and trade organizations to maintain fair and open competition in the marketing of livestock, poultry and meat and to assure financial protection to livestock producers.

Through the Packers and Stockyards Program, AMS investigates complaints and, in case of violation, USDA may file an administrative complaint or recommend actions to the U.S. Department of Justice in Federal district court to achieve compliance.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Anyone who believes that a violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act has occurred.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 447-7051, or any P&S Regional Office of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

## Marketing Orders

### PURPOSE

To enable farmers to work together, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture, in developing programs to regulate the marketing of their commodities in a more orderly manner.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Agricultural Marketing Service assists farmers in organizing and planning marketing order programs for commodities specially authorized by Federal law. Secretary of Agriculture issues regulations that carry out purposes of the law.

For commodities other than milk, a marketing order may do one or more of the following: adjust the quantity of products marketed; provide for the orderly disposition of surpluses; encourage commodity inspection; standardize containers and packs; prevent unfair trading practices; and finance research and development projects, including advertising and promotion. Regulations to apply under these orders are recommended by administrative committees made up of producers, growers and handlers, nominated by the industry and appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

For milk, a Federal marketing order achieves market stability through the establishment of minimum prices to producers, based on current conditions of supply and demand, the equalization of returns to producers, the verification of weights and uses, and a program of market information. A milk order applies to a defined marketing area and is administered by a local administrator appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Any cooperative, farm organization or other representative group of farmers.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Dairy Division or Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

### Food Acceptance Services

#### PURPOSE

To provide volume buyers of food commodities with an inspection and certification service to insure that their food purchase specifications are met.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Food Safety and Quality Service specialists work with volume food buyers in developing tailor-made specifications for food commodities for using official USDA specifications, grades, and standards. Buyers contract with their suppliers to have all deliveries examined by a USDA inspector or grader, and officially "accepted" or "certified" as meeting their specifications. Purchases are then examined by USDA before delivery to insure that specifications are met and each product or sealed package is stamped accordingly.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Any processor, wholesaler, retailer, hospital, restaurant, governmental agency, educational institution, airline, or other public or private group buying food in large quantities.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Fruit and Vegetable Quality, Meat Quality, or Poultry and Dairy Quality Division, Food Safety and Quality Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Cooperative Forestry Assistance

### PURPOSE

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cooperative forestry assistance to States and other interested parties.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

With respect to non-Federal forest lands the Act authorized USDA to assist in the advancement of forest resources management; production of timber, prevention and control of insects and diseases; prevention and control of rural fires; efficient utilization of wood and wood residues, improvement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and planning and conducting urban forestry programs.

### WHO MAY APPLY

State foresters, State officials.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Local Forest Service offices, or Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

## Resource Conservation and Development Program

### PURPOSE

To stimulate economic growth in multi-county areas through accelerated conservation activities and land-use adjustments.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Federal participation includes technical planning assistance in preparing long-range development plans; technical assistance to help landowners install needed conservation measures; financial assistance to public bodies on certain approved conservation and development measures having community benefits; and credit to help landowners and local sponsors finance planned capital improvements of soil and water resources.

The Soil Conservation Service provides program leadership and financial and technical assistance. The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, Science and Education Administration, and Forest Service assist within their authorities.

Farmers Home Administration can make loans to public agencies and private nonprofit corporations to provide for natural resource conservation and development in designated areas, including loans to public bodies for water-based recreation facilities. Maximum period is 30 years with repayment of principal and interest deferred up to 5 years. Loans do not exceed \$250,000.

## WHO MAY APPLY

Any legally qualified local group, such as a conservation district, local governing body, town, local or State agency, or public development corporation.

## WHERE TO APPLY

State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, or write to Administrator, Soil Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20013.

## Comprehensive and Community Facilities

## PURPOSE

To provide the areawide planning needed to improve and effectively use existing resources for economic expansion.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

Data and resource maps, based on soil and water appraisals under the Resource Conservation Act, and other SCS, ASCS, and Forest Service technical information are basic to such planning.

Soil Conservation Service provides soils, water-resource, engineering and other kinds of surveys and provides technical assistance in planning resource use, development and conservation. The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service helps in survey planning. The Science and Education Administration supplies information on techniques and facilities for processing farm products and industrial use of agricultural commodities. SEA also gives direct assistance to communities and other groups in planning complete project proposals in the field of agribusiness, in evaluating projects at request of funding agencies, and in establishment and operation of agribusiness facilities. SEA also helps local communities plan marketing facilities, such as wholesale food distribution centers, farmers markets, packing sheds, terminal markets, and livestock auction markets. Forest Service provides forest inventory for the Nation's forest land, natural resource information for National Forests, forestry research, and provides specialized technical assistance in planning forest and related resource use, development and conservation.

## Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program

## PURPOSE

To assist States in financing cooperative projects to solve marketing problems by improving the quality of farm products, marketing techniques, market development, and product promotion.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

Agricultural Marketing Service provides State marketing agencies with funds, which must be matched by the State to carry out specifically approved marketing service projects. Although the main responsibility for program development rests with the States, AMS reviews and approves proposed projects; helps participating States plan their programs; gives counsel on particular problems; and works with farmers' marketing firms, and State agencies to assist in carrying out projects.

## WHO MAY APPLY

State Departments of Agriculture, although projects may be initiated by State or local public, private, or trade organizations through their State Department of Agriculture.

## WHERE TO APPLY

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Import-Export Services for Agricultural and Related Products

## PURPOSE

To help prevent introducing agricultural pests and diseases from foreign countries into the United States and to help exporters of U.S. agricultural products meet requirements of foreign importers and maintain their world market.

## HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service provides inspection and quarantine services at borders and ports of entry to prevent agricultural pests and diseases from coming into this country with incoming baggage; cargoes; planes; ships; plants, animals, or their products; straw, bedding, or related materials.

APHIS also provides certification for exporters or importers of restricted products, indicating that these products or animals meet required specifications; and advises travelers about what products may be brought into the United States from foreign countries.

## WHO MAY APPLY

Anyone who wishes to import plants and plant products; animal and animal products; or pet birds. Those who wish to export plants, animals, or other agricultural products. Those who plan to travel in foreign countries.



## WHERE TO APPLY

To export or import animals and birds, write in advance to Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

To export or import plants and plant materials, write in advance to Permit Unit, PPQ, APHIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

To obtain information on what travelers may bring back into the United States from foreign countries, write to Travelers' Tips, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Soils and Land-Use Planning

### PURPOSE

To provide soil and other information needed by rural and suburban communities to guide their changes in land use.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Soil surveys, made by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with State experiment stations and other local agencies, are used by regional and city planners to identify the most suitable lands to develop or maintain in farms, recreation, timber, urban and other uses. Soil maps can help in identifying areas suitable for campsites, golf courses, highways, and waste disposal fields. Planners and others can use soil maps to identify sources of sediment and other water pollutants and to prepare plans for controlling erosion and sedimentation. Soil surveys can help in determining the extent of flood-prone areas. Information about soil behavior helps prevent major mistakes in land use and unnecessary costs to the community.

Several States have appropriated funds to accelerate soil surveys, and some State agencies publish maps and reports made by SCS for planning agencies.

SCS also gives advisory assistance on public facilities development and rural industries location.

Soil maps suitable for both farm and nonfarm planning are available for many counties.

SCS also produces useful county maps of prime (and other important) farmlands as well as information on potential cropland.

Forest Service assists in land-use planning by providing specialized expertise and forest inventory and related information to planning organizations.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Any public or private organization or individual.

## WHERE TO APPLY

State or local offices of the Soil Conservation Service or Forest Service or write to Administrator, Soil Conservation Service or Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Rural Clean Water Program

### PURPOSE

To help rural landowners and operators reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollutants in order to improve water quality. Rural Clean Water Projects (RCWP) generally are less than 200,000 acres in size and are individually authorized by the Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service based on applications submitted by the Governor.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

To be eligible for USDA technical and financial assistance, a Rural Clean Water project area must be within an approved agricultural portion of a water quality management plan under Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. It must have documented agricultural nonpoint source water quality problems. Within an authorized project, long term cost-sharing funds for installing water quality, best management practices are provided where practicable through a grant agreement between SCS and a local conservation district, the State soil and water conservation agency, or the State water quality agency. Where a grant agreement is not practicable, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will contract with landowners or operators for cost share payments.

The Soil Conservation Service provides technical assistance in developing the long-term contracts.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Owners and operators of private lands whose land or activities in a project area contribute to the area's agricultural nonpoint source water quality problems and who have an approved water quality plan are eligible to enter into an RCWP contract for cost-sharing.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Landowners and operators may apply for RCWP assistance through the office of the administering agency or its designee. Information on where to apply may be obtained from local offices of the Soil Conservation Service or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.



## Loans to Farmers

### PURPOSE

To strengthen family farming by providing credit for family farmers who cannot get sufficient loan funds at reasonable rates and terms from commercial lenders.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Farmers Home Administration makes loans and guarantees up to 90 percent of loans by private lenders under its major farm loan programs: farm ownership, farm operating, and emergency loans. It guarantees private lenders' loans under its emergency livestock loan program.

Other FmHA farm loan programs are for Indian land acquisition, grazing associations, recreation enterprises, soil and water conservation, irrigation and drainage, and youth loans for income-producing projects for rural youth in supervised programs.

Farm ownership loans are made to buy, enlarge, and improve farms, refinance debts, and establish small business to supplement farm income.

Farm operating loans finance annual production expenses such as feed, seed, fertilizer, and livestock and capital goods such as machinery and equipment.

Emergency loans are made to farmers in areas hit by natural disasters such as drought, floods, and blizzards. Eligible counties are designated by the President or Secretary of Agriculture; the State FmHA director also may authorize emergency loans to small groups of farmers. Farmers may borrow to recover actual production losses and may get supplemental loans for future production and major changes in their operations.

Economic emergency loans are available from FmHA to farmers who face a shortage of credit from regular credit sources or who are particularly hard-hit by high production costs and low prices for their crops and livestock. The loans may be made directly by FmHA or by commercial lenders with guarantees from the agency. The program is scheduled to expired May 15, 1980.

Emergency livestock loans are made by commercial lenders and guaranteed by FmHA to livestock producers who have suffered economic losses and cannot get credit without the guarantee. The program expires Sept. 30, 1979.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Farmers who operate or plan to start a family size farm. Farm operators may be individuals, partnerships, cooperatives, or corporations.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

For loans by FmHA--County FmHA office serving the area where the farm is located.

For guaranteed loans--a local lender located in or serving the area where the farm is located.

### Rural Housing Loans

#### PURPOSE

To provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing and related facilities for low and moderate income rural residents.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Farmers Home Administration makes loans and guarantees up to 90 percent of principal and interest of loans by private lenders to build, buy, enlarge, repair, or rehabilitate single-family housing and building sites in open country, towns of up to 10,000 population, and certain specified towns of 10,000 to 20,000 population.

Applicants for guaranteed single family housing loans must have moderate income and be unable to get housing mortgage credit without a guarantee. Moderate income applicants who cannot get guarantees may apply for loans from FmHA. Low income applicants who cannot get housing mortgage credit from private lenders may apply for loans from FmHA. Low and moderate income are defined periodically by FmHA; information on current limits may be obtained from the agency.

FmHA also makes loans for rural rental housing, housing repair loans for very low income families, and loans and grants for farm labor housing and self-help housing and sites.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Eligible residents or prospective residents of rural areas.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

For loans by FmHA--county FmHA office serving the county where the housing is or is to be located.

For guaranteed loans--a local lender located in or serving the area where the housing is located.

## Financing Community Facilities

### PURPOSE

To provide adequate water and waste disposal systems, public buildings, equipment, and other essential community facilities in rural areas.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Farmers Home Administration makes loans for water and waste disposal systems, buildings such as town halls, libraries, hospitals, firehouses, fire trucks and other essential buildings and equipment, in rural areas, including towns of up to 10,000 population.

Borrowers must be public bodies or nonprofit corporations unable to get financing through private lenders.

FmHA can make grants for up to 75 percent of the development cost of water and waste disposal systems if needed to reduce user costs to a reasonable level.

FmHA also makes watershed and flood prevention loans to public bodies; and Resource Conservation and Development Loans to public bodies and nonprofit corporations in areas designated by the Soil Conservation Service.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Eligible public bodies or nonprofit corporations.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Apply to the county Farmers Home Administration office serving the area where the project is located.

## Financing Business and Industrial Development

### PURPOSE

To improve the economics of rural areas by promoting development of businesses and industries providing nonfarm jobs.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Farmers Home Administration guarantees up to 90 percent of principal and interest of loans by private lenders for business and industry in open country and towns of up to 50,000 population in nonmetropolitan areas.

Borrowers do not have to meet the test of being unable to get credit without a FmHA guarantee, since the main purpose of the Business and Industrial (B&I) loan program is to promote the economic development of rural areas.

B&I loans can finance nearly any type of business and industry except agricultural production. A prospective borrower who cannot qualify for a guaranteed loan or a public body may apply for a B&I loan made by FmHA. FmHA also makes grants to public bodies to acquire and develop sites for business and industry.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

An individual, corporation, or public body.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

For guaranteed loans--a local lender located in or serving the area or the county FmHA office serving the county where the project is located.

For loans and grants by FmHA--County FmHA office serving the county where the project is located.

### Programs to Help Cooperatives

#### PURPOSE

To help farmers and others in rural areas increase their income by improving the effectiveness of established and emerging cooperatives and to form new cooperatives to market, purchase, and obtain other services.

#### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service works with other Federal and State agencies in cooperative development activities described in other sections of this directory. Its staff conducts feasibility studies for expansion of service of established cooperatives and organization of new ones. Upon request, its staff works with cooperatives in defining and solving organization, operating, and management problems.

#### WHO MAY APPLY

Cooperatives officials and community groups interested in developing cooperatives.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Administrator, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or offices listed in the other sections offering various types of assistance to cooperatives.

## Other Programs for Cooperatives

### PURPOSE

Foreign Agricultural Service works with cooperatives and other trade groups to expand exports through market development efforts, including exhibits at international trade fairs and promotion of trade centers. Forest Service and the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service help existing forestry cooperatives and groups interested in forming them. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service makes agricultural commodity price support available to producers through cooperatives. And it cooperates with Soil Conservation Service on recreation cooperatives and rural conservation and development projects.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Cooperative officials and community groups interested in developing cooperatives.

### WHERE TO APPLY

County Extension Offices, State or Federal offices of USDA agencies mentioned; or Administrator, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Educational Assistance to Production and Marketing Groups

### PURPOSE

To provide educational and technical assistance, including the latest USDA land-grant university research findings, to agricultural production and marketing associations, groups, and cooperatives.

### HOW USDA CAN HELP

Through the USDA and land-grant university experiment station and Extension Service, research findings and educational assistance are provided in the analysis of new technology and in the conduct of feasibility studies, market analysis, and the development of new products and markets.

### WHO MAY APPLY

Any agricultural production or marketing association, group or cooperative.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Local Cooperative Extension agent, State agricultural experiment station director, or Administrator, Science and Education Administration, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Assistance to Rural  
Agricultural Processing Industries

PURPOSE

To help rural communities establish and operate agricultural processing plants suitable to the farm production, marketing opportunities, skills, and other resources of the particular area.

HOW USDA CAN HELP

Science and Education Administration industrial specialists help community leaders evaluate the potential for an agricultural processing plant for a specified region. They help formulate feasibility studies to find suitable processing project plants; and give technical--economic assistance in the establishment and operation of agricultural processing plants. These specialists also act in a liaison capacity to find any needed additional services, know-how, financial support, and other assistance necessary for such an enterprise.

WHO MAY APPLY

Any responsible group representing a rural community.

WHERE TO APPLY

Administrator, Science and Education Administration, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Food Assistance

PURPOSE

To get food assistance to people who are unable to provide adequately for themselves.

HOW USDA CAN HELP

The Food and Nutrition Service, operating through State and local government agencies, administers programs that provide food stamps for low-income families; breakfast and lunch in public and nonprofit private schools, as well as public and licensed nonprofit private residential child care institutions; food service for pre-school children in day-care centers and similar away-from-home organized activities; meals to needy school-age children in summer recreation programs; selected nutritious foods to needy expectant mothers, new mothers, and infants and young children at home; donated foods for nonprofit summer camps and charitable institutions.

The family food assistance programs operate as follows:



Food Stamps--USDA increases the food-buying power of eligible low-income families by giving them a specified amount of food stamps to supplement their monthly food budget. The food stamps are spent for food the family chooses at retail stores.

Donated Foods--USDA buys a variety of nutritious foods and donates them to the States, for distribution to charitable institutions, and food assistance programs for needy families on some Indian reservations. Donated foods also benefit day-care centers, schools, and the victims of floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

Special Supplemental Foods for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)--USDA makes funds available to participating agencies to provide specified nutritious food supplements to pregnant and nursing women, and to infants and children up to 5 years of age who are determined by competent professionals (physicians, nutritionists, nurses, and other health officials) to be at "nutritional risk" because of inadequate nutrition and inadequate income.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Family food assistance--principally through the Food Stamp Program--is available in every county and city in the United States. Individual applicants should contact their local public welfare agency.

County public agencies wishing to operate a WIC program in their area may contact their State health agency.

The child nutrition programs operate as follows:

School Lunch--Children in schools in institutions offering the National School Lunch Program may get low-priced nourishing lunches. Children from needy families may receive their lunches free or at prices substantially lower than the nominal rates. Federal contributions of food, cash, and guidance make this possible.

School Breakfast--Breakfast is available to children in schools and institutions participating in the School Breakfast Program. It is especially important in improving the diets of needy children who may receive breakfast free or at a reduced price.

Summer Food Service Program for Children--This program is designed to provide meals for children from low-income areas during extended school vacation periods. Participating institutions and camps serve meals free to attending children.

Child Care Food Program--Children attending year-round nonresidential child care facilities may receive nutritious breakfasts, lunches, suppers and snacks. USDA cash and food assistance is tied to the number of meals served and the relative need of the children.

Special Milk Program--This program enables children in a school or institution to purchase milk at a reduced price--or, if they are needy, to receive it free. It is especially helpful to those schools which have no other meal service.

Equipment Assistance--Schools and institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program may receive funds to help them acquire adequate food service equipment. The funds are primarily available to schools and institutions which serve needy children.

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Schools and institutions wishing to participate in these programs can apply to the State education agency in their State capital.

#### Community Educational, Organizational, and Technical Assistance

The Cooperative Extension Service provides educational, organizational and technical assistance to communities and organizations to develop human, economic, and community resources to full potential.

Human development programs emphasize planning and action for improving the knowledge and skills of people, including education and training, through full use of educational, institutional, and organizational resources. Rural development programs are directed at developing new business and industry or expanding existing ones to increase income and employment opportunities; improving community services and facilities, and cultural and living environments; and increasing citizen participation in community decisions.

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